



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994
133 S. Fitzhugh St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029
ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): _____
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 417 Edgemere Drive
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Paul & Susan Gauthier ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14612
6. USE: Original: summer residence Present: year-'round residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☒ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☒ g. stucco ☐ other: _____
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = not visible.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☒
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"I suppose that I'm overly partial to this as it reminds me of the 1000 Islands (about which I'm writing a book). Anything that looks like it should be on the water has a certain enchantment. This does have the nostalgic quality of a beach house: extensive porches & picturesque skyline. However, there's not an awful lot there in terms of detail. It looks pretty much 'carpenter built' underneath. But it still has sort of a commanding presence on the hill. Let's put this in the 'red' category, as it has that kind of quality." P.Malo

COLOR CODE

Red



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: currently "for sale"
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: deciduous trees, coniferous shrubs
j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☐
d. densely built-up ☒ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1902-1924

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: residential

11c.

During the early 1980s, the house was extensively rehabilitated by owner, Michael Palumbo after many years of delayed maintenance and neglect. He installed the first indoor plumbing in the house. The rear (south) porch was removed and an enclosed sunroom was constructed there. Porches were repaired and the exterior re-painted. The brick piers by the front steps appear to be contemporary additions.

17. This large house is located on the south side of Edgemere Drive in the northeast quadrant of the town. It is just east of Dewey Avenue and sits on the top of Rigney Bluff, the highest point of land along Edgemere Drive. Lake Ontario is visible to the north. One driveway is located to the west of the house; a second curved driveway extends east-west across the front yard. The house is situated on the largest lot in the immediate area. The spacious yard features extensive lawn, mature deciduous trees, and coniferous shrubs. The adjacent homes along Edgemere Drive range from the early 20th-century to the 1980s. The neighborhood to the immediate south has mostly post-World War II residential architecture.

18. This large, rambling, 2-1/2-story house is constructed in the spacious cross-gable plan familiar at the turn of the century. The massing, asymmetrical fenestration and the details are all typical of the Queen Anne style.

The exterior is clad in wood clapboards on the first story and wood shingles on the second story. A tall brick chimney with wrought iron tie rod is located on the western slope of the front (north) gable. Windows are principally large, 1/1 double hung sash. However, there are small square windows in all of the gables and a 2-story window bay is located on the east elevation. At the peak of the front (north) and side gables, the top triangular section of the gable extends forward over the lower, recessed section.

Multiple porches are the principal exterior feature. The wrap-around front porch features square posts and straight-spindled railing. Atop the center section of this front porch is a second-story open "sleeping porch" with gabled roof, square posts, spindled wood railing and shingled knee walls on the east and west side. Another open 2-story porch is located on the south (rear) elevation of the house. It

18. continued

features detailing similar to the north porches.

According to the current owner, the house was originally constructed as a summer residence. It was built on piers, so there is no basement under it (only a crawl space). Never modernized by previous owners, the house acquired indoor plumbing for the first time during the early-1980s renovation.

The interior features walls and ceilings of tongue-and-groove, beaded wood boards. Only the modernized room at the southeast corner of the house has drywall partition walls. The interior walls do not have studs, only the wood wainscot boards. Studs, however, are located on the exterior walls. There are hardwood floors; a butler's pantry and kitchen pantry remain intact. In the master bedroom, there are small decorative pieces of cobalt blue glass in the windows.

20. Built after 1902 (probably c. 1902-10s), this house is a significant example of vernacular Queen Anne style architecture in the town. With its extensive porches and picturesque setting overlooking the lake, it is historically significant as an example of the development of vacation homes along the lakeshore at the turn of the century. Located on a large lot atop Rigney Bluff, it is visually significant due to its highly visible location.

The 1902 county map shows this site as open land. It was part of a 91-acre parcel owned by B.G. Bennett. To the north, the Rochester, Charlotte and Manitou Railroad (also known as the Manitou trolley) ran along the shoreline at the base of Rigney Bluff.

The 1924 county map shows this site as Lot 1, just east of Terrace Parkway. A house is shown on this lot, but there is no address/house number/owner's name indicated. Only one other house is shown on the south side of Edgemere Drive in this vicinity. The north side of Edgemere Dr. is laid out in building lots, but no houses have yet been constructed. A bathing beach was located on the lakeshore, just north of Terrace Parkway.

It appears that this house was constructed after the 1902 map, but before the 1924 map. Because of its vernacular

20. continued

Queen Anne styling, it is likely that the house was constructed sometime between 1902-1920. The Queen Anne style was popular from the 1880s until the 1910s. This was the dominant style of domestic building from 1880 until 1900; it persisted with decreasing popularity through the first decade of this century. In the northeastern part of the country it was somewhat less common than elsewhere. There, except for resort areas, it is usually more restrained in decorative detailing (the house at #417 is such an example).

The house at #417 Edgemere exhibits many of the typical Queen Anne details: irregular shape roof, dominant front-facing gable, asymmetrical facade, a combination of different wood siding materials (clapboard and shingle), and irregular wall surfaces (use of bay windows, angled corners, overhanging gables).

A trademark of the Queen Anne style - the porch - is well-represented on this residence. In addition to the 2-story rear porch, an extensive wrap-around front porch and 2nd-story sleeping porch face north to take in the view of the lake. When this house was first built, it was the only residence on this part of Edgemere Drive. There were no homes across the street to block the view of the lake. Rigney Bluff, the highest point of land along the lake in Greece, provided a distinctive setting for this summer residence.

The 1930 suburban directory lists a "#429 Edgemere Drive - vacant;" this may be a previous address for this property. The 1934 directory lists #429 Edgemere as the home of Clarence Wiard, who is a mason. From the 1930s-1942, the house at #429 is listed as "vacant" (there is no #417 listed in the directories). This may reflect its use as a summer residence. By 1944, Samuel Keigh is listed at #429 Edgemere Drive; he continued there into the late 1940s.

In the 1953 directory, Albert F. Wiard, a painting contractor, is listed as the owner of #417 Edgemere Drive. As the name "Wiard" is rather distinctive, it is possible that he was related to Clarence Wiard, who was listed here in the 1930s. It appears that the street addresses were revised by the 1950s and #429 was re-numbered as #417 Edgemere Drive.

Paul Gauthier, the present owner of #417, explained that for

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"many years" two elderly, unmarried sisters by the name of Wiard resided here. Reportedly, they ran the food concession at the Lakeshore Drive-In. During their ownership, maintenance was neglected and the house was in great disrepair by the late 1970s. Michael Palumbo, a realtor, acquired the house from the sisters' estate, c. 1982-83. He completed extensive renovation of the house. This included the installation of the home's first indoor plumbing system!

P. Gauthier also stated that he was told by the owners of 320 Kirkwood Rd. (also in this survey), that their house was originally the tenant house for #417 Edgemere Drive. This would date back turn of the century, when this area was mostly undeveloped farmland with scattered buildings.

The present owner also commented on prominence of this site and its high visibility from the lake. He mentioned that Rigney Bluff is often described as the highest point of land along the lakeshore between Sodus and Buffalo. The high visibility of this site is reported to have been useful during Prohibition. According to neighborhood history, they would signal from Rigney Bluff to boats running liquor from Canada to the Greece shoreline (they'd let them know when it was "clear" to bring in the boats with the bootlegged liquor).

P. Gauthier recommended Dick Oleksyn of 5225 Dewey Ave. as an additional source of neighborhood history/information.

21. See bibliography in final report; interview with Paul Gauthier, 1/1995.

